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BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	91237315
Party	Plaintiff American Marriage Ministries
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get

X



DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

get verb



Save Word

\ 'get , nonstandard 'git

got \ 'gät ; got or gotten \ 'gä-tən ; getting

Definition of get (Entry 1 of 3)

transitive verb

- 1 **a** : to gain possession of
// got a new bicycle
- b** : to receive as a return : EARN
// he got a bad reputation for carelessness
- 2 **a** : to obtain by concession or entreaty
// get your mother's permission to go
- b** : to become affected by (a disease or bodily condition) : CATCH
// got measles from his sister
- 3 **a** : to seek out and obtain
// hoped to get dinner at the inn
- b** : to obtain and bring where wanted or needed
// get a pencil from the desk

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bunkum

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ordained



DICTIONARY

THESAURUS

ordain verb



or·dain | \ őr-'dān |

ordained; ordaining; ordains

Definition of *ordain*

transitive verb

1 : to invest (see [INVEST](#) entry 2 sense 1) officially (as by the laying on of hands) with ministerial or priestly authority

// *was ordained as a priest*

2 a : to establish or order by appointment, decree, or law : [ENACT](#)

// *we the people ... do *ordain* and establish this Constitution*

— *U.S. Constitution*

b : [DESTINE](#), [FOREORDAIN](#)

// *It is futile to try to avoid what destiny has *ordained*.*

intransitive verb

: to issue an order

// *so the gods have *ordained**



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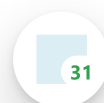
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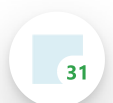
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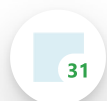
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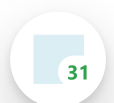
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Life

How To Legally Get Ordained To Perform A Wedding



By Caitlin Frauton
June 23, 2015



OK, first thing's first: there are a lot of different terms that fly around when it comes to who can officiate weddings, and how to get ordained yourself. Let's get the basics out of the way about who can do the marriage deed. A clergy person (minister, priest, rabbi, etc.) is someone who is ordained by a religious organization to marry two people. A judge, notary public, justice of the peace, and certain other public servants often solemnize marriages as

part of their job responsibilities. A temporary officiant is someone who is given the legal
Bustle thumbs up for a day by a state to marry two people.

[MENU](#)

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If you're looking into how to marry a friend or relative, you're probably most interested in either 1) becoming ordained, or 2) being a temporary officiant. As in all things of legal importance when it comes to marriage (like getting your marriage license), the regulations for performing a legal marriage ceremony vary from state to state. I won't attempt to summarize the ins and outs of all the variations of the 50 states here, as the differences are

mind-boggling crazy (more on this to come), but here are the basics to get you started, and confidently headed in the right direction.



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Know the state requirements

As always when it comes to marriage, check out the requirements in the state and county where you are going to be performing the marriage ceremony. In some states, the laws are much clearer and stricter, while in other states things can be a little loosey goosey. Either way, you want to know what the requirements are wherever you're performing the ceremony.

Get the necessary documents in place

If you need to become a temporary officiant or get a one-day marriage designation in order to perform the ceremony, then that's the most important thing to do. Any marriage ceremonies performed without the appropriate paperwork in a state that requires that it approves temporary officiants may be considered... well... null and void. So make sure to do your due diligence to see if it is necessary to be approved by the state to marry two people and, if so, what that process is.

Or get ordained (if that's cool with your state)

In some states, you don't need legal documents to marry people — you can be ordained by a religious organization instead. Though this sounds rather complicated, it can actually be the least complicated of all the ways to go about marrying a friend or relative in some states. Organizations like the Universal Life Church Monastery and the American Marriage Ministries will ordain people who want to perform a marriage ceremony with a few clicks of the mouse. With that said, some states require that an ordained minister actually have a

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Bustle

in your congregation to legally marry people — so again, know what your state does and doesn't require. MENU

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If the people you are marrying are interested in having a spiritual or religious component to their ceremony but live in a state where you need to have a state-approved, one-day marriage designation, then you could likely do both — become a temporary officiant and an ordained minister. Though it sounds rather complicated to tackle both, the states I have worked in make it pretty simple to get a one-day marriage designation, and the Universal Life Church

Monastery and American Marriage Ministries make it insanely simple to become ordained as a minister.



To recap, check in with the state you are performing the ceremony in to see if you need to be approved as a temporary officiant (or something similar), and/or if you should take the route of becoming ordained as a minister. And to re-emphasize just how important it is to know your state regulations, just consider this: according to this list of recognized marriage officiants by state, commissioners of the Salvation Army are approved to perform marriage ceremonies in Alaska (seems a bit random, eh?), while in Wisconsin you and your future

spouse can officiate your own ceremony (and I'm still not totally clear on how that one

Bustle

MENU

So make your next online research stop the state's official website of where you are going to marry the couple, and then move on to the fun stuff like what to talk about during the marriage ceremony... and what not to talk about during the marriage ceremony. Most importantly, keep calm and marry on!

Images: barrydadon/Pixabay; Somerby Jones Photography; Giphy

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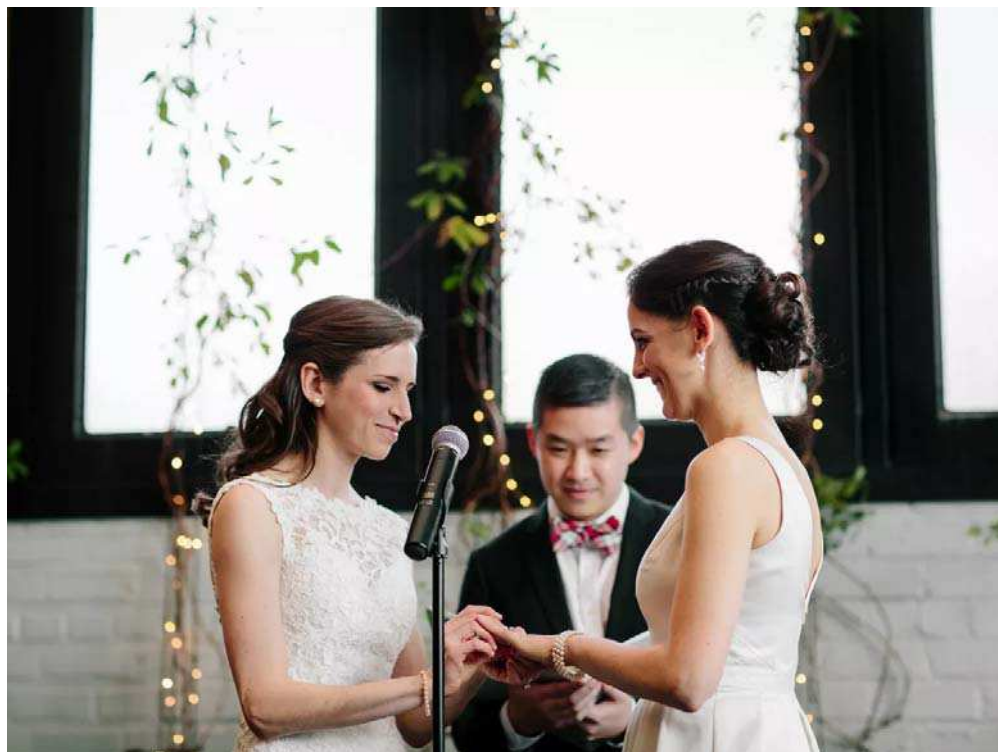
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IDEAS & ADVICE

Here's What You Need to Know About How to Officiate a Wedding

Wondering how to become a wedding officiant? We've got you covered.



Justine Bursoni Photography



by The Knot

Updated Jul 14, 2020

You want to ask your best friend or close family member to officiate your wedding. It is both a huge honor and a big responsibility. Before you make the ask, do a little research so that you can answer any questions your officiant-to-be might have. Chief among those is how to officiate a wedding? It might also be useful to know how to become a wedding officiant.

Don't worry, we've got all the info you need to help your relative or friend officiate your wedding.

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Why Choose Your Own Officiant?

Lots of couples are warming to the idea of a family member or friend officiating their wedding. This is especially true for secular couples or those looking for a more casual wedding ceremony.

Asking a close friend to officiate your wedding does offer several important benefits. Not only does it add an even more personal spin to the ceremony, but it's also another way for couples to incorporate a loved one into your wedding who's not in the wedding party. Couples on a [budget](#) will also appreciate the cost savings of using a friend to officiate.

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Who Should You Ask to Officiate?

Your **officiant** should be someone you care about (and who cares about you), and whom you trust to make your ceremony special. This person should be reliable and organized. They'll need to go through the ordination process and be prepared on your wedding day. You'll also want to ask someone who feels comfortable speaking in front of crowds, since, along with you and your future spouse, they will be the center of attention during your ceremony.

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Can Your Friend or Family Member Officiate Your Wedding?

Ordination requirements differ from state to state and even from county to county and city to city. Step one is to do your research and make sure your friend or family member is legally able to officiate your wedding. In some states, for example, a

couple doesn't even need an officiant, while in others, only pastors can perform a wedding.

You'll want to do your research first to make sure you're following local state or district rules. For example, in New York City, your officiant will have to register with the court at the city clerk's office.

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How to Become a Wedding Officiant

Look to online ministries. Many are nondenominational or interfaith, while others are for certain religions. Just double-check the affiliation before you go through the process. Some ministries require applications to convey your intentions, while others ask for simple paperwork.

Can My Friend or Relative Get Ordained to Perform a Ceremony of Any Religion?

Though some online organizations are for specific religions, many are either nondenominational or interfaith. The [American Fellowship Church](#), which has been ordaining people since 1975, ordains people of any religion, and those who go through the process are also able to perform nondenominational services.

How Do We Find a Credible Organization?

There are a few large organizations that will ordain online. Some of the most common online ministries are American Fellowship Church, [Universal Life Church](#), [Universal Ministries](#) and [Rose](#)

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Ministries. Once you find one that suits you, check with your Secretary of State's office for legitimacy. The American Fellowship Church, for example, is legally registered with the California Secretary of State's office as a nonprofit religious organization in good standing.

How Long Does It Take to Get Ordained?

The process varies depending on what organization you go through. The American Fellowship Church ordains instantly online and sends an ID card and minister's license immediately afterward. Check with the organization to find out the specifics.

Does It Cost Money to Be Ordained?

Again, this depends on the organization you go through. Some, like the Universal Life Church, ordain for free but charge a small fee for certificates of credentials. Others, like the American Fellowship Church, do charge varying prices for the ordination, based on what type of package or certificate you'd like to have. A quick tip: Before getting ordained, find out whether the ordination will be for life or for a limited time. If it's for a limited time, find out if it costs anything to renew the ordination.

How To Officiate A Wedding

Now that your friend is actually ordained to officiate your wedding, what do they actually have to do? You'll want to take a look at your local laws again to brush up on the requirements. In most cases, your officiant simply needs to include the declaration of intent, or the "Do you take..." and "I do" vows portion of the ceremony.

How to Plan Your Ceremony

After you've clarified the legal requirements to make your marriage official, the rest of your ceremony is up to you. Sit down with your officiant and work with them to decide how you want your ceremony to go. This is where you might want to pick out a [wedding reading](#), tell your officiant stories of your relationship and guide them on themes or styles. Heck, you can even write their part for them if you'd like. It's your wedding after all.

A typical ceremony order of events often includes a processional, welcome, declaration of intent, readings, vows, ring exchange, pronouncement and recessional.

What Should Your Officiant Wear?

It doesn't hurt to discuss what your officiant will wear to your ceremony. Remember, they will be front and center along with you and your spouse, which means they'll be in some of the most important pictures of your life. Make sure they don't overdress or underdress for the ceremony so that their outfit doesn't distract from the overall magic of your big moment.

What Does Our Officiant Need to Do After the Wedding?

Postceremony, your officiant must complete the marriage license (for which you usually need two witnesses to sign, along with the couple and the minister) and mail it to the state or county clerk's office. Each state has different laws for how soon

after the ceremony the license must be mailed, so make sure you do your homework.

Not sure where to begin with your wedding planning?

Take our [Style Quiz](#) and we'll pull together a custom wedding vision and vendors to match, just for you. After that, create a free, personalized [wedding website](#) to keep your guests informed (and excited!) about your plans, and a time-saving [Guest List Manager](#) to organize your attendees. Even better? You can sync your Guest List Manager and wedding website to update everything at once.

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Go online, get ordained

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Go online, get ordained

With a few mouse clicks, everyday people can become ordained ministers and officiate at weddings.

JEFF KORBELIK/Lincoln Journal Star
Jan 18, 2008

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Mary Kay Wood officiates at the wedding of Matthew and Jennifer Landis after going online to become ordained. (Courtesy photo) Courtesy Photo

Matthew Landis and his fiancée, Jennifer Lukas, wanted a marriage ceremony that reflected them personally.

Non-conventional is the word Landis used.

To officiate, they wanted someone close to them.

Someone they loved and respected.

Someone like Mary Kay Wood, a longtime Landis family friend.

“I’ve known her going back as far as I can remember,” Landis said. “She and my mom are close friends. I just knew that her spirit was a natural fit for what we were portraying in our ceremony.”

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Trouble was, the 62-year-old Wood is a psychotherapist, not a minister.
Go online, get ordained

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But it proved to be a minor roadblock thanks to the Internet, where everyday people such as Wood can become ordained ministers with a few clicks of a mouse.

Landis and Lukas sent Wood to the Web site of the Universal Life Church (**www.themonastery.org**), which boasts of more than 20 million ordinations since 1959.

“We make no religious hurdles, no hoops to jump through, no tests of loyalty, no rings to kiss and no fees to pay,” the church says on its Web site.

Why?

“The ULC Monastery represents freedom, and to have freedom you cannot make demands upon individuals,” the church says. “In the ULC Monastery everyone is equal — the same level of greatness is enjoyed by all.”

Wood is among a growing number of people who have gone online to become ordained in order to officiate at weddings and other rituals.

Several churches offer the service — most of them free of charge.

After Wood received her online ordination, she learned her best friend's senior chief petty Naval officer, had done so as well.

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"I always wanted my Ph.D. simply so my son would have to call me Dr. Mom," Wood joked. "I thought this was just as good."

After performing the Landis-Lukas ceremony in August, she called her son in Washington state to tell him he now needed to address her as "Reverend Mom."

"He told me, 'You'll have to address me as Reverend Son,'" she said. "He had done the same thing for some friends out there."

Helping a friend is why Kristy Burke became ordained. She officiated at Michelle Blessing's marriage to her husband, Lloyd, in August 2006. And she has performed three more ceremonies since then.

"As long as I didn't have to give my social security number, I was going to do it," Burke said. "I just thought it would be a nice surprise."

Was it ever.

Blessing and her fiance had been together for 15 years, but hadn't tied the knot because they didn't belong to a church and didn't know anybody to officiate at a ceremony.

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In stepped Burke.

“I was floored,” Blessing said. “I couldn’t believe she did it.”

Burke, who works in data management for Experian, became ordained through Universal Ministries (**www.universalministries.com**). It was free, didn’t require a social security number and, most importantly, was valid.

That was a concern.

“Everyone in my family was like ‘Are you sure this is going to be legal?’” Blessing said.

Wood wondered the same thing as she filled out her online form.

“I thought, ‘Is this really OK to do?’” she said. “I no doubt wanted to do it, but I didn’t want to see people go to school for this.”

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Most churches that ordain ministers online cite a 1974 district court case in California which established the legitimacy of ordination by mail.

Universal Life Church sued the federal government in response to the government’s challenge to their right to tax-exempt status.

In his ruling, the judge addressed the question of mail-order ordinations, saying, “the court, nor any branch of government, will consider the merits of fallacies of a religion. ... Were the court to do so, it would impinge upon the guarantees of the first amendment.”

As for the legality of officiating marriage ceremonies, it depends on the state, and sometimes the county.

Some states, such as Nevada, require ordained ministers to have actual congregations.

Pennsylvania state law allows clergy of regularly established churches — such as those found online — or congregations to perform weddings.

But a ruling in a York County court in Pennsylvania recently invalidated because the bride's friend who conducted the wedding had an online ordination but no regular congregation or place of worship.

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In Nebraska, state statute (42-108) says "... every preacher of the gospel authorized by the usages of the church to which he or she belongs to solemnize marriages, may perform the marriage ceremony in this state."

The statute has paved the way for some special days for many people.

"I've had a lot of good days in my life, but nothing comes close in the same solar system," Landis said. "It was so spectacular, and (Mary Kay) has no small part to do with it."

Blessing was just as complimentary of Burke.

"She took it seriously," she said. "She didn't want to seem non-professional or anything like that. She did a great job. I still can't believe she did that for me."

*Reach Jeff Korbek at 473-7213 or **jkorbek@journalstar.com**.*

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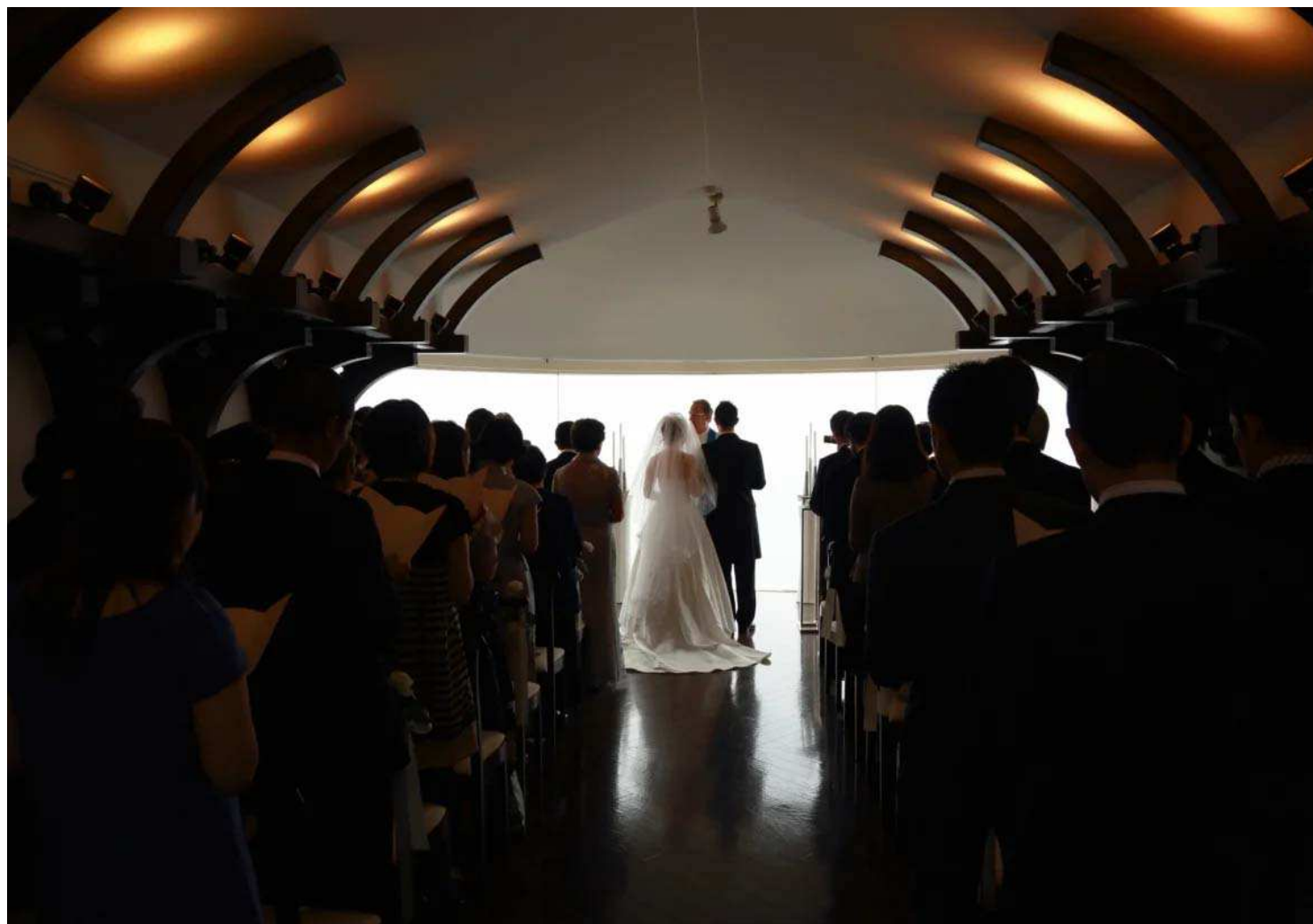


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How to Get Ordained Online in 6 Easy Steps

written by Aubrey Bach



Your wedding really only needs three things: you, the person you are head over heels in love with and the perfect person to marry you. Many couples have their church ministers officiate their marriage, don't fret if that's just not your style. Nowadays, aunts, uncles, friends, and siblings are uniting couples.

holy matrimony more often because it's another way to get the most important people in your life together involved in your union. If you want a loved one or a close friend as your wedding officiant, he or she isn't ordained, here's what you need to know to make that happen. You and your soon-to-be minister will be pleasantly surprised at how ridiculously easy and inexpensive it is to become a wedding officiant. Sign, sealed, delivered.

The Basics

If your friend or loved one is genuinely wishing to become a legit minister (i.e. start a congregation), getting ordained online is probably not the best option. In fact, some states (and countries) do not recognize online ordinations, so a more traditional route of attending a seminary or obtaining a degree in theology or ministry is a much better option for the minister-hopeful. On the other hand, if the person is simply wants to act as your wedding officiant for the big day, then getting ordained online is the perfect option.

(Note: If your friend will be required to become ordained under a different religion to officiate your wedding, then have your friend verify with his/her clergy/church as to whether or not it is permitted because some religions consider this grounds for excommunication.)

Getting Ordained Online

Becoming an ordained wedding officiant online is almost embarrassingly easy.

1. Grab a device that connects to the Internet (e.g. a smartphone or a computer)
2. Go to an online non-denominational ministry's website, such as [The Universal Life Church Ministry](#) or [Open Ministry](#).
3. Click on "Get Ordained" or something to that effect.
4. Fill out the form.
5. Pay the nominal online ordination fee, if any. (Most are free of charge but accept donations.)
6. Check your email for confirmation.

Depending on what ministry ordains you, you may have to wait up to two weeks to receive your official documents as an ordained minister, so allot enough time for that process. It is highly suggested that your minister verify with the county clerk to ensure that his or her appointment is recognized and legal before the wedding day. If he or she is turned down by the county clerk, it is advised that your friend or loved one contact the ministry that gave the ordination for further guidance.

Once you've figured out the ordination process, check out our guide to [how to officiate a wedding](#).

Becoming a wedding officiant is a piece of cake, really—weirdly easy, if you think about it. Now your wedding will be complete with all the fixings for an absolutely perfect day, including that special someone to have the power invested in them to pronounce you, husband and wife!

For more info on professional officiants, check out [Your Wedding Officiant: Making it Official!](#)

Tell Us More

Have you been to a wedding led by a friend or family member? Tell us how it went by commenting below, or join the conversation with us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#)!

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Aubrey Bach

Aubrey Bach is a writer based out of Seattle. She is a recovering Diet Coke addict who was raised on the mean streets of Orange County, California. At weddings, Aubrey is an enthusiastic but terrible dancer and has a knack for making friends with whoever is refilling the wine.



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How to Become an Ordained Minister Online

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Getting ordained online is often as easy as signing up for an account and paying a small fee. As an ordained minister, you can officiate wedding ceremonies, funerals, and other important ceremonies. Some states don't legally recognize online ordinations, so be sure to check the laws where you live before performing a ceremony.

Part 1

Researching Ordination

1 Find out if you can legally be a minister in your county. If you're getting ordained to perform a wedding, this step is essential.^[1] Some states recognize online ordinations as legal, while others only consider you a minister if you have a congregation. Look up your state's laws, or call your county clerk for more information. Some states require minister licensing, which is the process of registering as clergy with the state. Here are some general guidelines^[2]:

- The legality of online ordination has been the subject of recent court cases in a variety of states. Laws regarding this issue are constantly evolving, so it's important to have up-to-the minute information about whether you'll be able to legally perform different ceremonies where you live. ^[3]
- Organizations such as prisons and hospitals that allow outside ministers to visit and minister to their clients, inmates, and patients have the right to refuse recognition to certain ministers. Many federal institutions, especially

those addressing the needs of veterans and the military, do not recognize online ordinations no matter how legal they may be.

2 Find out how becoming a minister online will impact your religious standing.

If you aren't already a member of a church, this isn't something to worry about. However, if you are a member of a church, getting ordained online could affect your standing. If you want to perform a wedding for a friend but you already belong to a different religion, investigate whether becoming ordained online could get you excommunicated.

- Some churches, such as the Catholic Church and the LDS Church, may consider becoming a minister in another religion apostasy,^[4] and grounds for immediate excommunication.
- If you're unsure, ask your local clergy for guidance.

3 Consider the online option carefully if you truly want to be a minister.

Getting ordained online offers an alternative to traditional ordination routes. If you feel you've been called to serve as a minister, you might find it more fulfilling to undergo formal training. That being said, attending seminary school does require time and money. Getting ordained online tends to be relatively inexpensive, and will allow you to perform weddings and other ceremonies. However, each denomination has their own requirements, so online ordination doesn't guarantee you will be eligible to serve as a pastor in every traditional church. If this is your goal, you may use your online ordination to begin your own church or consider looking into seminary programs that may better suit your needs.

- Some online churches are non-denominational or interfaith and open to people of any religious background. If you are actively involved in another religion, be sure to check that becoming a non-denominational minister will not affect your standing in your religion.

Part 2

Getting Ordained

1 Find an organization that suits your needs and your beliefs. Do some research to find an online ministry you can see yourself joining. Some organizations simply send you ordination papers, while, others provide training

as to how to perform weddings and other ceremonies. Make sure that whatever you choose is an incorporated and legitimate service.^[5]

- Some sites are quite religious, while others are purposely unaffiliated with any particular religion.
- Choose a service that will send you a hard copy of your credentials, with an original signature and a seal. Additionally, find out if they'll send a letter of good standing or a wallet card. ^[6] Free ordinations will usually provide a certificate to be printed from your browser. A higher-quality version, often with a gold seal will normally have to be ordered for a nominal fee.
- Don't be fooled by sites that say a church must be a tax-exempt organization to be valid. This is not true. It is totally up to the organization to decide if they wish to apply to the IRS for tax-exempt status. Some organizations choose to keep government out of religion through the payment of taxes.

2 Contact prospective ministries via phone or email. If you'd like to find out more information about the process, as well as whether your ordination will be sufficient to perform any ceremonies you're interested in doing, contact the ministry. While you're at it, you can ask if they know anything about acting as a minister in your particular state.

- Avoid organizations that do not list their contact information on their site or do not respond to your attempts to contact them.
- Know that your ordination may or may not allow you to perform weddings in your state. You must check the state requirements by calling the clerk in the county in which the wedding is going to be performed.
- Find out about renewal fees. Some ministries will ordain you for life, while others will only ordain you for a year.

3 Submit your personal information online. Most online ordination services require you to fill out a short form with your personal information. Every church has different requirements for the ordination process, but most require the following:

- Full legal name
- Mailing address
- Valid email address
- A fee, usually about \$50.00

4 Receive your official ordination paperwork in the mail. After you submit your information and pay for the services you requested, all you have to do is wait to receive your paperwork. Processing your request should take no more

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than two weeks. If you still have not received your official certificate and letter of good standing by then, contact the ministry.

Community Q&A

Question

Do I have to renew my license if I'm an ordained minister?

Community Answer

Some ministries will ordain you for life, while others may only ordain you for a year before requiring a renewal.

Question

Does South Carolina recognize online ordained ministers?

Community Answer

Yes, but you must be over 18 and file with the government.

Question

I just want to get married to the woman I love. Can our friend marry us?

Community Answer

If your friend is an officially ordained minister, then yes he can. Make sure to check your state laws, since not every state allows online-ordained ministers to legally perform marriages.

Question

If I were to get ordained online, could I claim tax exemption?

Community Answer

No. The tax exemption is for religious organizations. Being or becoming ordained could allow you to start a religious organization but until that actually happens, there is no tax exemption. Bear in mind that the organization is what goes tax free, your personal income probably won't be.

Question

I have a PhD in psychology and am a lifelong believer with a Christian education, and I need to know what credentials are required to preach, travel to churches, give sacraments, receive gifts, etc. Do I need to file as a non-profit corporation?

Community Answer

Non-profit is for an organization such as a church. A single person is not a church and therefore not entitled to this exemption. In short, you **MUST** have a church or similar to file and get the redemption. That being said, you don't need the exemption at all to have a church. Just pay taxes like you do now.

Question

What are the 39 states that approves online ordaining?

Revad

Community Answer

You need to check with the organization who is issuing the ordination about where they are recognized. The church who is ordaining you will have to go through certain requirements to be accepted in some states, and not all online organizations do. Some are recognized across the U.S.

Question

Will New York acknowledge the status of an ordained online minister?

Community Answer

Yes, New York is one of 39 states that accepts online ordinations.

Question

How do I know if my city or state accepts online ordination?

Community Answer

Call the county clerk and ask.

Question

How much does it cost to become ordained?

Revad Community Answer

Many of the legitimate online organizations offer the ordination for free. The only things that you pay for are any documents or supplies that you order from their store. Some others do have an upfront cost, and sometimes renewal fees as well, so just do your research before choosing the organization you will go with.

Question

Does Texas recognize online ordinations?

Revad Community Answer

Texas does recognize online ordinations. They may also require you to provide a credential of ministry or a letter of good standing to the register before you are able to perform a marriage ceremony. It is always best to check directly with the office issuing the marriage license to the couple to verify what, if anything, they will require of the minister. They will already be familiar with most of the larger online churches.

Tips

- In a few states you need a letter aka "Letter of Good Standing" from the organization that ordained you to be able to perform a wedding.
- If you plan to perform a marriage in the state of Nevada, be sure that you check that the organization has a "physical" congregation in the state of Nevada. The law prohibits an ordained minister from performing a wedding if there is not a physical congregation in the state. If you are a resident of another state, you can request a one-time exception from the county in which the license is obtained.

Warnings

- Most online sites have learned that they can break down their ordination into categories. Mainstream churches have ordained laity, deacons, and priests. The sites are paralleling this tier system with partial ordinations. Only the higher level ordinations are authorized to officiate sacraments. If such a person signs a license, and the licensing board checks the ordination, the license is illegal, and there are serious legal consequences. This includes marriage licenses, and other recordings into vital records, such as baptism and funerals.

References

1. <http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/05/fashion/05marry.html>
2. http://www.themonastery.org/tools/wedding_laws/
3. https://blogs.findlaw.com/law_and_life/2013/02/can-priests-ordained-online-officiate-weddings.html

4. <https://www.catholic.org/encyclopedia/view.php?id=930>
5. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB121322275524265889>
6. <https://getordained.org/state-marriage-laws/kentucky>

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How to become a wedding officiant: online churches to get ordained

112
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Updated Jun 3 2020 (Posted Feb 9 2017)

Catherine Clark (<https://offbeatbride.com/author/superman/>)  [bijouxandbits](https://www.instagram.com/bijouxandbits)
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This is a notion that is near and dear to my own heart because that's how I got started as a professional officiant. My best...

Read more (<https://offbeatbride.com/friend-officiant/>)

Are you looking to have a familiar face as your wedding officiant? A friend or family member instead of a stranger? It's an appealing thought in a lot of cases, especially if you're living the secular life (/tag/secular). This post is meant to be shared with your chosen pal (<http://www.wikihow.com/Become-a-Wedding-Officiant>) so they can find out how to become a wedding officiant, and and where to get ordained.

How to become wedding officiant: the legal stuff

RELATED POST

4 essential tips for choosing a wedding officiant (plus questions you need to ask!) (<https://offbeatbride.com/tips-for-choosing-a-wedding-officiant/>)

The officiant/celebrant of your ceremony has a pretty hefty job when you think about it: setting the tone, saying the right things, actually marrying you..... Read more (<https://offbeatbride.com/tips-for-choosing-a-wedding-officiant/>)

First, make sure it is legal. Call the registrar in the township where you will be getting married to see what needs to be done by your officiant to ensure that they can legally do the deed. This not only varies by country and state, but can also vary by municipality within the state. Just because someone is an internet-ordained



minister does not automatically let them perform marriage ceremonies everywhere — in the US, marriage laws are governed at the state level, not the federal level.

Don't forget all the other paperwork (<http://www.usmarriagelaws.com/>), like your marriage license, when considering a friend officiant.

Here's a list of who can perform marriages (<http://marriage.about.com/cs/marriagellicenses/a/officiants.htm>) ceremonies by US state.

But in those states where you can be ordained by a religious organization, here are some online options.

Online churches to get ordained

Here is a list of sites (both secular and theistic) that will get you started on your way to being able to legally marry your friends! You know what I mean. And most of these sites make it dead easy to do...

- American Marriage Ministries (<https://theamm.org/>) (an official offbeat vendor (<http://vendors.offbeatbride.com/listing/american-marriage-ministries/>)!)
- Church of Spiritual Humanism (<http://www.spiritualhumanism.org/>)
- Church of the Latter-Day Dude (<http://www.dudeism.com/>) (Dudeism!)
- American Fellowship Church (<http://www.amfellow.org/>)
- First Nation Church (<http://www.firstnationministry.org/>)
- Open Ministry (<http://www.open-ministry.org/>)

Costs and timeframes to get approved vary by each site.

